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Currents

The Energy Conservation Newsletter • Autumn 2009

Dr. Watts' Brilliant Savings

Help for Each of Us – RIGHT NOW!

As you read this autumn newsletter, it's anticipated that PECO Energy will have received approval by the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to launch an ambitious Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plan to curtail use and demand on its system. The initial phase of this proposed plan emphasizes the use of compact fluorescent lamps (CFL) in our homes.

By providing millions of CFLs at no cost and/or a discounted cost, PECO Energy is stimulating the use of CFLs in hopes of cutting use and demand at residences throughout its territory. And for us, these

incentives enhance an already great investment in cutting our monthly electric bills at home and improving our air quality.

Contingent on PUC approval of the plan and scheduled to begin next January, the proposed plan also offers residential customers a package of low-cost energy-saving measures and rebates for installing Energy Star®-rated appliances. Visit www.puc.state.pa.us/electric/Act_129_info.aspx for additional information on this unfolding energy-saving initiative. ■

Blowin' in the Wind

Saving Money and Healing the Environment

Beginning in 2011, Jefferson will begin buying electricity from Pennsylvania's largest wind power project. This generation station, located in Schuylkill and Columbia counties, relies solely on wind to produce electricity and is owned and operated by Iberdrola, SA, the largest wind-generated energy operator in the world.

We will be buying over one-third of our needs for electrical energy from this renewable, non-polluting source. According to Practice Greenhealth's Health Care Leadership National Action Plan, by displacing 1.25 million KWHR of fossil fuel-generated electric power in this manner, we are avoiding over \$10 million in direct medical costs, principally through breathing cleaner air. We are enhancing our health

and the health and well-being of our surrounding communities.

Our contract fixes our electric prices for 10 years, freeing us from fluctuations in electric prices due to swings in natural gas prices over this period. We're also preventing the injection of 12,700 metric tons of CO₂ emissions into the atmosphere. This reduction in CO₂ emissions is the equivalent of planting 650 acres of carbon-removing trees or removing 170 cars from our roads for a year!

An added bonus here is that all of the wind turbines at the Iberdrola installation were manufactured in nearby Bucks County, so our investment in renewable energy has helped create 'green' jobs locally. ■

Support Your Local Farmer

It's hard to believe at first, but our food travels about 1,500 miles on average from farm to plate. That's a lot of fuel and a lot of global climate change. And then there's the refrigeration needed while transporting it to keep the food from spoiling. Yet even more pollution.

Consider buying locally grown and fair trade products from our campus Farmer's Market, located on Chestnut Street, between 9th and 10th Streets. Open every Thursday through October, between 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., the Market provides each of us the opportunity to purchase fresh-cut flowers, juicy delicious fruits, fresh-baked European breads and colorful, healthy veggies from area producers.

These foods are fresher than what's available at our local supermarkets and contain fewer preservatives. Healthy food in a cleaner environment – win/win all the way!

And when you shop, bring your own bags, Okay? Every year, with our fellow citizens, we throw away 100 BILLION polyethylene plastic bags and less than 1 percent of these bags are recycled. The plastic bags can take up to 1,000 years to dissolve and, when they do, they leave dangerous toxins behind. ■

Every kilowatt hour of electricity saved avoids about 1.5 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO₂) being pumped into the atmosphere.



Look for the EPA's Energy Star label on products that use less energy, save money on your utility bills and help protect the environment.



Bright Ideas

And the winner is...

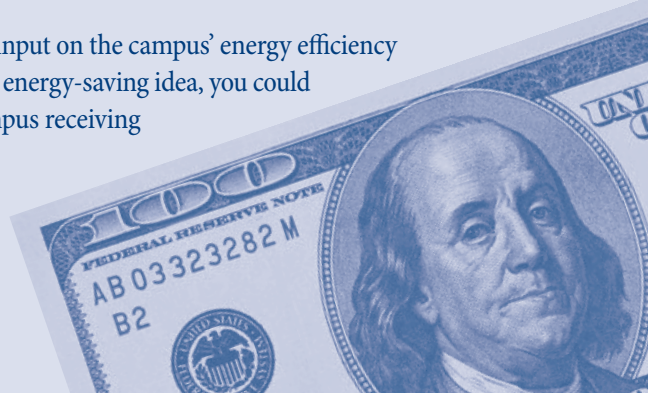
Our Assistant Director for Dining Services in the Hospital's Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, Shelley Chamberlain! From providing rBGH-free dairy products and cage-free eggs, to serving nutrient-rich vegetables and whole grains, to eliminating Styrofoam cups in the dining facilities on campus, to spearheading Meatless Monday incentive meals and the Jefferson Farmers Market, Shelley is in the forefront in educating people about making healthy food choices, using less energy and healing the environment. Local produce purchases have doubled this growing season as compared to 2008. The Department of Nutrition and Dietetics is sending a consistent message about health and nutrition. Cooking in the background is chef P. Martin Frazier.



Sharpen your eyes and look about you. Discover ways to lower energy use on campus. They all count! Whether you're making sure that the office copier is shut OFF at quitting time or turning OFF the lights as you leave the restroom, your shop or office (after verifying that no one else is present). Big and little – the impact of these measures add up!

And remember, we need your input on the campus' energy efficiency program. And if you submit an energy-saving idea, you could well be the next person on campus receiving a \$100 bill. ■

Look around your area and observe operations, develop a good idea to lower energy use and then contact me, Randy Haines, at 215-503-6099 or randolph.haines@jefferson.edu.



Trash to Cash

Over the past 20 years, Jefferson's Recycling Program has expanded from an effort that gathered cardboard, cans and bottles to a comprehensive program that runs the gamut from fluorescent lamps and computers to kitchen grease and batteries.

Cash savings go hand-in-hand with the environmental impact of our recycling program. For example, savings from recycling office furniture amounted to \$100,000 last year.

Ed Barr of Environmental Services is the dynamo behind our award-winning recycling program in the hospital. Donald Burton is taking the lead for the university. He reports that 35 percent of the waste stream on campus is now diverted into recycling. ■